

Home & Personal Safety Tips

CITY OF BROOKLYN
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To avoid becoming a victim, you need to take charge of your own safety. There are no guarantees, but actively tuning your thoughts and actions toward crime prevention and self-defense can help lower chances of becoming a casualty.



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FOR EMERGENCY CALL—9-1-1

Making your Home Safer

Effective Home Security starts with properly locked doors and windows and visible, well-lit entryways!

EXTERIOR DOORS

- Should be metal or solid wood.
- Strong hinges on the inside of the door with non-removable or hidden pins.
- Well-lit with a wide-angle door viewer (so you can see the outside without opening the door).

LOCKS

- Always keep doors and windows locked.
- Use strong—reliable locks.
- Use quality keyed knobs.
- Use deadbolts.

DEADBOLT LOCKS BEST FEATURES

Features to have on a deadbolt lock:

- One with a bolt that extends at least one inch when in the locked position.
- A reinforced strike plate with extra-long mounting screws.

SLIDING GLASS DOORS

Sliding glass doors offer easier entry into your home. To improve security on existing sliding glass doors, install keyed locking devices that secure the door to the frame; adjust the track clearances on the doors so they cannot be pushed out of their tracks; or put a piece of wood or a metal bar in the track of the closed door to prevent the door from opening even if the lock is jimmied or removed.

WINDOWS

Double Hung Windows:

Most of these windows have thumb-turn locks between the two window panels. These locks can be pried open or easily reached through a broken pane. Install keyed locking devices to prevent the window from being raised from the outside. *make sure that everyone in the house knows where to find the keys in case of an emergency.

LIGHTING

One of the most efficient deterrents to burglary is lighting! Indoor lighting gives the impression that someone is home. If you are going to be away from your home, consider using automatic timers to switch interior lights on and off at preset times.

Outdoor lighting can eliminate hiding places. Install exterior lighting near porches, rear and side doorways, garage doors, and all other points of entry. Entryways to your home should be well lit.

- ⇒ Place lights out of reach from the ground so that bulbs are not broken or removed.
- ⇒ Aim some lights away from the house so you can see if anyone is approaching, or install motion-sensing lights, which turn on automatically as someone approaches.
- ⇒ Motion detector lights attract the attention of neighbors. Install them at least 8 feet above the ground so they are more difficult to disable.

Making your Home Safer

SHRUBS AND LANDSCAPING

- Landscaping and shrubs should direct visitors to the main entrance and not to private areas.
- Be sure to keep visibility to and from your house.
- Trim shrubbery that could conceal criminal activity near doors and windows.
- Cut back tree limbs that provide thieves the ability to climb into windows.
- Keep yard fencing low enough too avoid giving criminals places to hide.

HOME TIPS WHILE ON VACATION

Make sure your home is secure when you are traveling with these helpful tips...

- ⇒ All deadbolts should be locked.
- ⇒ Have newspaper stopped, and mail held at the post office or collected by a trusted neighbor.
- ⇒ Put inside lights on a timer and have them go on every night.
- ⇒ To make your home more lived in ask a trusted neighbor to park their car in your driveway.
- ⇒ Be careful whom you tell about your vacation plans.
- ⇒ Record a generic message on your answering machine rather than one indicating that you are out of town.
- ⇒ If you are away for an extended period, have someone cut your grass or shovel your snow.
- ⇒ Place radios on automatic timers.

BE ALERT!

When returning home—be observant!

If something looks questionable—a slit screen, a broken window or an open door—**DON'T GO INSIDE!** Call 9-1-1 from a neighbor's house, cell phone or a public phone.

If you hear someone breaking in—leave safely if you can, then call the police! If you cannot leave, lock yourself in a room with a phone and call the police. If an intruder is in your room, pretend you are asleep.

HELPFUL HINTS.....

- ⇒ Never leave a message on your answering machine that indicates you may be away from home. Rather than saying "I'm not at home right now," say "I'm not available right now."
- ⇒ When home—park your cars in the garage with the garage door shut. Burglars look for patterns when garage doors are open or cars are in the driveway.
- ⇒ Make your house look the same whether you are away or at home.
- ⇒ Do not provide your house keys to service people.
- ⇒ Do not let strangers inside your home. Burglars sometimes like to "case" the home by posing as a motorist in distress or other guise. Once inside, they look for valuables that are worth stealing and then come back later when you are not home.
- ⇒ When working outside, leave all other doors that are out of sight locked.
- ⇒ Avoid discussing with others the valuables that are kept in your home.
- ⇒ Discuss home safety with your children.
- ⇒ Do not share any security system or garage door codes.

PERSONAL SAFETY TIPS....

Do not give out personal information over the phone, through the mail, or over the Internet unless you have initiated the contact or know with whom you are dealing.

If you're a senior, use direct deposit for your Social Security check and other regular payments.

If you notice someone following you when you're driving, head for the nearest busy, brightly lighted area. Write down the license number and make and model of the car. Call 911 or your local emergency number.

Always lock car doors and take the keys when you leave your car, even if you'll be gone "just for a minute."

Don't leave valuables in view in the car. Leave them in the trunk or, better yet, take them home immediately.

As you walk down the street or through the parking garage, walk alertly and assertively. Don't weigh yourself down with too many parcels. Take several loads to the car if necessary.

If you carry a purse, hold it close to your body; if a wallet, keep it in a front pocket.

When traveling, carry only the credit and ATM cards you absolutely need. Leave the others at home, safely stored.

Be aware of your surroundings. No matter how safe you think a neighborhood might be, it's still not a good idea to leave the front door open, your valuables in the car, your purse on top of your office desk, or flaunt all of your expensive jewelry and other belongings with police.

Do not walk through dark, isolated alleys, fields or parking lots.